

FAMILY COURT  
State of Delaware

2020 Annual Report Statistical Information

## FAMILY COURT

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Adult Criminal Case Filings</b> |              |              |             |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|   | 2019         | 2020         | Change      | % Change     |
| New Castle County   | 2,856        | 2,803        | -53         | -1.9%        |
| Kent County   | 993          | 893          | -100        | -10.1%       |
| Sussex County   | 840          | 804          | -36         | -4.3%        |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>4,689</b> | <b>4,500</b> | <b>-189</b> | <b>-4.0%</b> |

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Adult Criminal Dispositions</b> |              |              |               |               |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | 2019         | 2020         | Change        | % Change      |
| New Castle County   | 2,544        | 1,943        | -601          | -23.6%        |
| Kent County   | 980          | 695          | -285          | -29.1%        |
| Sussex County   | 871          | 684          | -187          | -21.5%        |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>4,395</b> | <b>3,322</b> | <b>-1,073</b> | <b>-24.4%</b> |

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## FAMILY COURT

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Civil Case Filings</b> |               |               |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | 2019          | 2020          | Change        | % Change      |
| New Castle County  | 20,910        | 16,676        | -4,234        | -20.2%        |
| Kent County  | 8,554         | 7,524         | -1,030        | -12.0%        |
| Sussex County  | 9,514         | 8,235         | -1,279        | -13.4%        |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>38,978</b> | <b>32,435</b> | <b>-6,543</b> | <b>-16.8%</b> |

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Civil Case Dispositions</b> |               |               |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | 2019          | 2020          | Change        | % Change      |
| New Castle County   | 20,975        | 18,054        | -2,921        | -13.9%        |
| Kent County   | 8,501         | 7,849         | -652          | -7.7%         |
| Sussex County   | 10,327        | 8,674         | -1,653        | -16.0%        |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>39,803</b> | <b>34,577</b> | <b>-5,226</b> | <b>-13.1%</b> |

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## FAMILY COURT

| Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2020 - Civil Case Filings |   |              |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
|--|---|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|
|  | Child Support/New Non-support             |              | Child Support/ Modifications    |             | Child Support/ Arrearages                    |              | Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment |              |
| New Castle County  | 2,513                                     | 15.1%        | 1,034                           | 6.2%        | 1,834  | 11.0%        | 4  | 0.0%         |
| Kent County  | 1,197                                     | 15.9%        | 436                             | 5.8%        | 689  | 9.2%         | 2  | 0.0%         |
| Sussex County  | 1,258                                     | 15.3%        | 399                             | 4.8%        | 1,589  | 19.3%        | 1  | 0.0%         |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>4,968</b>                              | <b>15.3%</b> | <b>1,869</b>                    | <b>5.8%</b> | <b>4,112</b>                                 | <b>12.7%</b> | <b>7</b>   | <b>0.0%</b>  |
|  | Child Support/ Determination of Parentage |              | Child Support/Revocation        |             | Child Support/ Registration of Foreign Order |              | Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment          |              |
| New Castle County  | 147                                       | 0.9%         | 300                             | 1.8%        | 146  | 0.9%         | 2,200  | 13.2%        |
| Kent County  | 41  | 0.5%         | 167                             | 2.2%        | 80   | 1.1%         | 1,446  | 19.2%        |
| Sussex County  | 52  | 0.6%         | 94                              | 1.1%        | 64   | 0.8%         | 1,692  | 20.5%        |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>240</b>                                | <b>0.7%</b>  | <b>561</b>                      | <b>1.7%</b> | <b>290</b>                                   | <b>0.9%</b>  | <b>5,338</b>                                       | <b>16.5%</b> |
|  | Child Support/Other Support               |              | Custody                         |             | Dependency/Neglect                           |              | Visitation   |              |
| New Castle County  | 14  | 0.1%         | 1,629                           | 9.8%        | 176  | 1.1%         | 198  | 1.2%         |
| Kent County  | 9   | 0.1%         | 633                             | 8.4%        | 54   | 0.7%         | 102  | 1.4%         |
| Sussex County  | 2   | 0.0%         | 583                             | 7.1%        | 40   | 0.5%         | 72   | 0.9%         |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>25</b>                                 | <b>0.1%</b>  | <b>2,845</b>                    | <b>8.8%</b> | <b>270</b>                                   | <b>0.8%</b>  | <b>372</b>   | <b>1.1%</b>  |
|  | Termination of Parental Rights            |              | Civil Dissolution*              |             | Guardianship                                 |              | Spousal Support                                    |              |
| New Castle County  | 111                                       | 0.7%         |                                 | 0.0%        | 844  | 5.1%         | 49   | 0.3%         |
| Kent County  | 36  | 0.5%         |                                 | 0.0%        | 395  | 5.2%         | 7  | 0.1%         |
| Sussex County  | 36  | 0.4%         |                                 | 0.0%        | 335  | 4.1%         | 11   | 0.1%         |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>183</b>                                | <b>0.6%</b>  | <b>0</b>                        | <b>0.0%</b> | <b>1,574</b>                                 | <b>4.9%</b>  | <b>67</b>  | <b>0.2%</b>  |
|  | Expungements (Juv. & Adult)               |              | Imperiling Family Relationships |             | Protection from Abuse                        |              | Divorce/Annulment                                  |              |
| New Castle County  | 903                                       | 5.4%         | 14                              | 0.1%        | 2,154  | 12.9%        | 1,593  | 9.6%         |
| Kent County  | 261                                       | 3.5%         | 1                               | 0.0%        | 996  | 13.2%        | 633  | 8.4%         |
| Sussex County  | 482                                       | 5.9%         | 1                               | 0.0%        | 636  | 7.7%         | 616  | 7.5%         |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>1,646</b>                              | <b>5.1%</b>  | <b>16</b>                       | <b>0.0%</b> | <b>3,786</b>                                 | <b>11.7%</b> | <b>2,842</b>                                       | <b>8.8%</b>  |
|  | Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt  |              | Minor Name Change               |             | Miscellaneous Civil                          |              | Adoption   |              |
| New Castle County  | 438                                       | 2.6%         | 81                              | 0.5%        | 177  | 1.1%         | 117  | 0.7%         |
| Kent County  | 174                                       | 2.3%         | 39                              | 0.5%        | 82   | 1.1%         | 44   | 0.6%         |
| Sussex County  | 118                                       | 1.4%         | 17                              | 0.2%        | 83   | 1.0%         | 54   | 0.7%         |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>730</b>                                | <b>2.3%</b>  | <b>137</b>                      | <b>0.4%</b> | <b>342</b>                                   | <b>1.1%</b>  | <b>215</b>   | <b>0.7%</b>  |
|  | <b>Total</b>                              |              |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| New Castle County  | 16,676                                    | 100%         |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| Kent County  | 7,524                                     | 100%         |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| Sussex County  | 8,235                                     | 100%         |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>32,435</b>                             | <b>100%</b>  |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

\*As of FY19, Family Court no longer handles these cases. Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## FAMILY COURT

| Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2020 - Civil Case Dispositions |   |              |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
|---|---|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|
|   | Child Support/New Non-support             |              | Child Support/ Modifications    |             | Child Support/ Arrearages                    |              | Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment |              |
| New Castle County   | 2,935                                     | 16.3%        | 1,029                           | 5.7%        | 2,113  | 11.7%        | 4  | 0.0%         |
| Kent County   | 1,048                                     | 13.4%        | 425                             | 5.4%        | 993  | 12.7%        | 2  | 0.0%         |
| Sussex County   | 1,196                                     | 13.8%        | 373                             | 4.3%        | 1,952  | 22.5%        | 1  | 0.0%         |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>5,179</b>                              | <b>15.0%</b> | <b>1,827</b>                    | <b>5.3%</b> | <b>5,058</b>                                 | <b>14.6%</b> | <b>7</b>   | <b>0.0%</b>  |
|   | Child Support/ Determination of Parentage |              | Child Support/Revocation        |             | Child Support/ Registration of Foreign Order |              | Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment          |              |
| New Castle County   | 151                                       | 0.8%         | 318                             | 1.8%        | 172  | 1.0%         | 2,186  | 12.1%        |
| Kent County   | 46  | 0.6%         | 169                             | 2.2%        | 78   | 1.0%         | 1,441  | 18.4%        |
| Sussex County   | 56  | 0.6%         | 89                              | 1.0%        | 77   | 0.9%         | 1,694  | 19.5%        |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>253</b>                                | <b>0.7%</b>  | <b>576</b>                      | <b>1.7%</b> | <b>327</b>                                   | <b>0.9%</b>  | <b>5,321</b>                                       | <b>15.4%</b> |
|   | Child Support/Other Support               |              | Custody                         |             | Dependency/Neglect                           |              | Visitation   |              |
| New Castle County   | 16  | 0.1%         | 1,724                           | 9.5%        | 198  | 1.1%         | 210  | 1.2%         |
| Kent County   | 10  | 0.1%         | 662                             | 8.4%        | 60   | 0.8%         | 124  | 1.6%         |
| Sussex County   | 2   | 0.0%         | 600                             | 6.9%        | 48   | 0.6%         | 85   | 1.0%         |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>28</b>                                 | <b>0.1%</b>  | <b>2,986</b>                    | <b>8.6%</b> | <b>306</b>                                   | <b>0.9%</b>  | <b>419</b>   | <b>1.2%</b>  |
|   | Termination of Parental Rights            |              | Civil Dissolution*              |             | Guardianship                                 |              | Spousal Support                                    |              |
| New Castle County   | 117                                       | 0.6%         |                                 | 0.0%        | 942  | 5.2%         | 55   | 0.3%         |
| Kent County   | 43  | 0.5%         |                                 | 0.0%        | 430  | 5.5%         | 19   | 0.2%         |
| Sussex County   | 47  | 0.5%         |                                 | 0.0%        | 402  | 4.6%         | 14   | 0.2%         |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>207</b>                                | <b>0.6%</b>  | <b>0</b>                        | <b>0.0%</b> | <b>1,774</b>                                 | <b>5.1%</b>  | <b>88</b>  | <b>0.3%</b>  |
|   | Expungements (Juv. & Adult)               |              | Imperiling Family Relationships |             | Protection from Abuse                        |              | Divorce/Annulment                                  |              |
| New Castle County   | 947                                       | 5.2%         | 18                              | 0.1%        | 2,144  | 11.9%        | 2,051  | 11.4%        |
| Kent County   | 256                                       | 3.3%         | -                               | 0.0%        | 1,053  | 13.4%        | 674  | 8.6%         |
| Sussex County   | 497                                       | 5.7%         | 2                               | 0.0%        | 629  | 7.3%         | 669  | 7.7%         |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>1700</b>                               | <b>4.9%</b>  | <b>20</b>                       | <b>0.1%</b> | <b>3,826</b>                                 | <b>11.1%</b> | <b>3,394</b>                                       | <b>9.8%</b>  |
|   | Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt  |              | Minor Name Change               |             | Miscellaneous Civil                          |              | Adoption   |              |
| New Castle County   | 456                                       | 2.5%         | 37                              | 0.2%        | 151  | 0.8%         | 80   | 0.4%         |
| Kent County   | 184                                       | 2.3%         | 21                              | 0.3%        | 81   | 1.0%         | 30   | 0.4%         |
| Sussex County   | 104                                       | 1.2%         | 11                              | 0.1%        | 80   | 0.9%         | 46   | 0.5%         |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>744</b>                                | <b>2.2%</b>  | <b>69</b>                       | <b>0.0%</b> | <b>312</b>                                   | <b>0.9%</b>  | <b>156</b>   | <b>0.5%</b>  |
|   | <b>Total</b>                              |              |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| New Castle County   | 18,054                                    | 100%         |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| Kent County   | 7,849                                     | 100%         |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| Sussex County   | 8,674                                     | 100%         |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>34,577</b>                             | <b>100%</b>  |                                 |             |  |              |  |              |

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

\*As of FY19, Family Court no longer handles these cases. Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## **FAMILY COURT**

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings</b> |              |              |             |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|   | 2019         | 2020         | Change      | % Change     |
| New Castle County   | 2,106        | 1,980        | -126        | -6.0%        |
| Kent County   | 881          | 699          | -182        | -20.7%       |
| Sussex County   | 729          | 717          | -12         | -1.6%        |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>3,716</b> | <b>3,396</b> | <b>-320</b> | <b>-8.6%</b> |

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions</b> |              |              |             |               |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
|  | 2019         | 2020         | Change      | % Change      |
| New Castle County  | 2,262        | 1,925        | -337        | -14.9%        |
| Kent County  | 1,121        | 821          | -300        | -26.8%        |
| Sussex County  | 881          | 726          | -155        | -17.6%        |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>4,264</b> | <b>3,472</b> | <b>-792</b> | <b>-18.6%</b> |

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## FAMILY COURT

### Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2020 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings

|                   | Felony     |              | Misdemeanor  |              | Traffic      |              |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| New Castle County | 608        | 30.7%        | 1,097        | 55.4%        | 156          | 7.9%         |
| Kent County       | 223        | 31.9%        | 323          | 46.2%        | 98           | 14.0%        |
| Sussex County     | 132        | 18.4%        | 414          | 57.7%        | 154          | 21.5%        |
| <b>State</b>      | <b>963</b> | <b>28.4%</b> | <b>1,834</b> | <b>54.0%</b> | <b>408</b>   | <b>12.0%</b> |
|                   |            |              |              |              |              |              |
|                   | VOP        |              |              |              | Total        |              |
| New Castle County | 119        | 6.0%         |              |              | 1,980        | 100%         |
| Kent County       | 55         | 7.9%         |              |              | 699          | 100%         |
| Sussex County     | 17         | 2.4%         |              |              | 717          | 100%         |
| <b>State</b>      | <b>191</b> | <b>5.6%</b>  |              |              | <b>3,396</b> | <b>100%</b>  |

### Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2020 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions

|                   | Felony     |              | Misdemeanor  |              | Traffic      |              |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| New Castle County | 512        | 26.6%        | 1,142        | 59.3%        | 166          | 8.6%         |
| Kent County       | 211        | 25.7%        | 452          | 55.1%        | 107          | 13.0%        |
| Sussex County     | 93         | 12.8%        | 474          | 65.3%        | 142          | 19.6%        |
| <b>State</b>      | <b>816</b> | <b>23.5%</b> | <b>2,068</b> | <b>59.6%</b> | <b>415</b>   | <b>12.0%</b> |
|                   |            |              |              |              |              |              |
|                   | VOP        |              |              |              | Total        |              |
| New Castle County | 105        | 5.5%         |              |              | 1,925        | 100%         |
| Kent County       | 51         | 6.2%         |              |              | 821          | 100%         |
| Sussex County     | 17         | 2.3%         |              |              | 726          | 100%         |
| <b>State</b>      | <b>173</b> | <b>5.0%</b>  |              |              | <b>3,472</b> | <b>100%</b>  |

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

\*VOP = Violations of Probation.

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## FAMILY COURT

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020- Mediation Hearings Scheduled</b> |              |              |               |               |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | 2019         | 2020         | Change        | % Change      |
| New Castle County   | 4,875        | 3,802        | -1,073        | -22.0%        |
| Kent County   | 2,075        | 1,574        | -501          | -24.1%        |
| Sussex County   | 2,729        | 1,468        | -1,261        | -46.2%        |
| <b>State</b>  | <b>9,679</b> | <b>6,844</b> | <b>-2,835</b> | <b>-29.3%</b> |

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Mediation Dispositions</b> |              |              |               |               |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | 2019         | 2020         | Change        | % Change      |
| New Castle County  | 2,897        | 2,198        | -699          | -24.1%        |
| Kent County  | 1,145        | 784          | -361          | -31.5%        |
| Sussex County  | 1,583        | 787          | -796          | -50.3%        |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>5,625</b> | <b>3,769</b> | <b>-1,856</b> | <b>-33.0%</b> |

Note: Mediation is the process prior to adjudication in which a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a Commissioner or Judge.

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## FAMILY COURT

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020 - Total Case Filings</b> |               |               |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | 2019          | 2020          | Change        | % Change      |
| New Castle County  | 25,872        | 21,459        | -4,413        | -17.1%        |
| Kent County  | 10,428        | 9,116         | -1,312        | -12.6%        |
| Sussex County  | 11,083        | 9,756         | -1,327        | -12.0%        |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>47,383</b> | <b>40,331</b> | <b>-7,052</b> | <b>-14.9%</b> |

| <b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2019-2020- Total Case Dispositions</b> |               |               |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | 2019          | 2020          | Change        | % Change      |
| New Castle County  | 25,781        | 21,922        | -3,859        | -15.0%        |
| Kent County  | 10,602        | 9,365         | -1,237        | -11.7%        |
| Sussex County  | 12,079        | 10,084        | -1,995        | -16.5%        |
| <b>State</b>   | <b>48,462</b> | <b>41,371</b> | <b>-7,091</b> | <b>-14.6%</b> |

**Notes:**

\*A civil filing is defined as one petition or one single civil incident filed with the Family Court. In a divorce matter, although the petition may contain multiple ancillary matters to the divorce, it is counted as only one filing.

\*A criminal or delinquency filing is defined as one incident filed against one individual or defendant. A single criminal or juvenile delinquency filing may be comprised of a single or of multiple charges relating to a single incident.

\*Mediation is the process prior to adjudication in which a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement or the mediation does not occur as scheduled, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a Commissioner or Judge or rescheduled back to a mediation calendar.

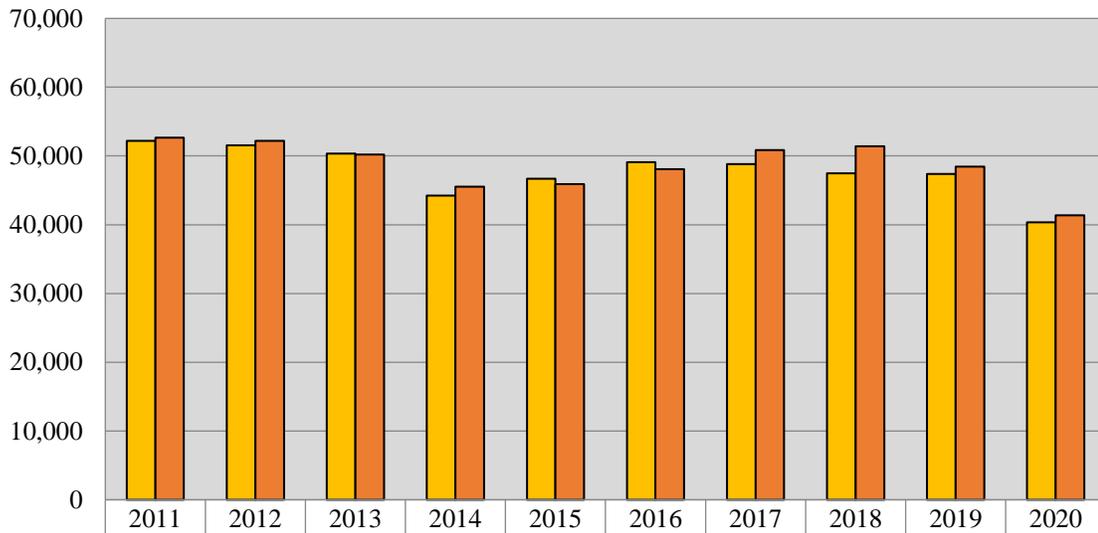
\*Custody, support, visitation, paternity, guardianship, imperiling family relations, and rule to show cause filings are scheduled for mediation unless bypass mediation rules apply as indicated in 13 Del. C. § 711A and 13 Del. C. § 728A; Family Court Procedures OCI-914 and OCI-902.

\*Automatic Expungements/Pardons resulting in Automatic Juvenile Expungements are counted as filings in this report due to the amount of staff effort to process them. Although there is not a disposition from a Hearing Officer for Automatic Expungements, the directive letter from SBI is acted upon by our staff. Therefore, the resolution of these types of filings are added to the same month they are received in the Disposition sections of this report.

\*Due to expungements, Criminal Filings / Dispositions stats were taken from reports ran each month throughout the year. While this method will not catch all filing and dispositions that may have been expunged, this is the method that will allow us to capture the most. The volume of expungements will affect all data regarding juvenile criminal charges. Any decreases from prior FYs should not be assumed to be actual decreases as we don't have a definitive way to measure the impact of all the charges immediately expunged.

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

## Family Court 10-Year Total Caseload Trend



|                |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| ■ Filings      | 52,189 | 51,568 | 50,364 | 44,243 | 46,681 | 49,093 | 48,834 | 47,469 | 47,383 | 40,331 |
| ■ Dispositions | 52,661 | 52,213 | 50,191 | 45,516 | 45,884 | 48,067 | 50,869 | 51,400 | 48,462 | 41,371 |

**Fiscal Year**

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.